

THE HEALTHCARE LAW
REVIEW

SIXTH EDITION

Editor
Ulrich Grau

THE LAWREVIEWS

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PREFACE

The sixth edition of *The Healthcare Law Review* covers six new jurisdictions and a total of 17 jurisdictions from Europe, North and South America and Asia. All chapters have been provided by leading experts in the field of healthcare law in their countries. The reviews have been prepared by the authors as a practical, business-focused analysis of recent changes and developments, their effects, and a look forward at expected trends. The reviews are intended to provide an overview of legal issues that are of interest for healthcare providers and related businesses.

The past two years have been dominated by the covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic not only affected all healthcare providers and staff working in health and social care but also scientists, public health officials and politicians throughout the world. Each country was hit hard by the pandemic, some countries were even overwhelmed, and major sources of the healthcare systems had to focus on maintaining the functioning of the health systems even in this exceptional situation. Therefore, all countries took additional exceptional measures to fight the pandemic. According to the reviews from the individual countries, these exceptional measures have now largely been scaled back or totally withdrawn, even though the pandemic is not yet over.

As a major result of the pandemic, many countries have geared their healthcare systems to ensure safe access to healthcare for citizens, even in extraordinary situations, through greater digitisation and use of telemedicine. This is not only about supplementing or replacing face-to-face doctor visits with communication options via telephone or video consultation. Many countries have also introduced electronic patient files, regulations for the exchange of health data and other digital communication channels. The next few years will show whether these innovations can also be successfully implemented in a healthcare reality that is no longer solely determined by a pandemic. A particular challenge in the future will also be to utilise the new digital tools not only within a national healthcare system in a single country, but also across borders. The European Union is already well on the way with the implementation of a European Health Data Space.

Even if individual countries solve their problems differently, we all can only benefit from knowing the different approaches to solving the problems and how successful the respective countries have been with their solutions in each case. I truly hope that the publication of *The Healthcare Law Review* will be particularly helpful in that respect.

I am more than happy to take over the editorship from Sarah Ellson from Fieldfisher LLP, London. I would like to sincerely thank her for her commitment over the past years. It is an extraordinary pleasure to work with this group of exceptional authors of *The Healthcare Law Review* in this edition and in the years to come to provide a practical overview of the

healthcare systems of the countries covered. We will continue our efforts to include more countries to this publication to be able to give a comprehensive worldwide approach to healthcare issues by each country.

Ulrich Grau

D+B Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaft mbB

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August 2022

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Dr Ulrich Grau has been a partner at D+B Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaft mbB since 2006. He graduated in business law from the University of Bayreuth in 1997, earned his doctorate in 200. He was admitted to practise as an attorney in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1999 and in Belgium in 2018.

He specialises in medical law, aiming to cover the regulatory landscape of medical devices and medicinal products. He is particularly fascinated by developments in biotechnology. His main areas of consultancy are the laws on pharmacies, protection of industrial property, laws governing medical and therapeutic services, hospital law, and public procurement law.

Dr Grau has been ranked as ‘Best Lawyer for Pharmaceuticals Law and Healthcare Law in Germany’ and ‘Lawyer of the Year 2021’ for Pharmaceuticals Law by *Handelsblatt* and *Best Lawyers*.

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